

expect. If he does not perform it. We do not say that an example may not sometimes be necessary: it

Is the threat to which we take exception.

Besides the objectionable contents of this order, the fact that it was issued without consultation with the General-in-chief indicates a deplorable lack of confidence in him on the part of the Government.

Another instance of the same lack of confidence, and, one may fairly say, an instance of lack of ordinary

courtesy, also, was the issuing, on the same day, without the knowledge of General McClellan, of another

order, dividing the army into corps, and assigning to each its commander.¹ There had been considerable

discussion of this subject between General McClellan

and, the President and Cabinet; the former wishing to appoint the eoip*-coimi Hinders himself, but

desiring to defer doing so until he should be able to judge of the relative merit of his officers by their actual

performance of duty in the field.² The criticism we

make is, not that the President decided the matter

against the opinion of General McClellan; it is that

he did not frankly tell him that he had done so; that

the first intimation that McClellan had that the mat-

ter—which was really one of very great importance

—had been decided, was in receiving the order. The

fact was, that between McClellan on one

Bide and
the President and the Secretary of War on
the other,
there was anything but a cordial and
complete under-
standing.

What would have happened in
consequence of the
issuing of the order to take the Potomac
batteries, it

"~"iTwri<..*8. 8/^> so.